

Application No. 09/975,698
Amendment dated January 14, 2004
Reply to Office action of October 21, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for preserving plant tissue, said
2 method comprising the steps of:
3 (a) obtaining a dehydrated plant tissue; and
4 (b) saturating said plant tissue with a saturation mix, said saturation
5 mix ~~imparting extreme flexibility and little or no chemical~~
6 ~~cross-linking in the resulting saturated plant tissue composed of a~~
7 ~~silicone styrene elastomer resin mix,~~
8 (c) wherein said silicone styrene elastomer resin mix is selected from
9 the group consisting of:
10 (i) copolymers of dimethylsiloxane and polystyrene;
11 (ii) block copolymers of dimethylsiloxane and polystyrene;
12 (iii) copolymers of dimethylsiloxane and polystyrene mixed with
13 a rubber vulcanizing agent;
14 (iv) copolymers of dimethylsiloxane and polystyrene mixed with
15 an antioxidant;
16 (v) copolymers of dimethylsiloxane and polystyrene mixed with
17 a UV stabilizer;
18 (vi) PLASTI DIP®;
19 (vii) PLASTI DIP® UV STABLE; and
20 (viii) a combination of the following: copolymers of
21 dimethylsiloxane and polystyrene and a rubber vulcanizing

22 agent and an antioxidant and a UV stabilizer and PLASTI
23 DIP® and PLASTI DIP® UV STABLE.
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1 Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, said method further comprising
2 the step of:

3 (a) applying a coating mix to said saturated plant tissue.

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1 Claim 3 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, said step of
2 obtaining a dehydrated plant tissue comprising:

3 (a) obtaining a fresh-cut plant tissue;
4 (b) forming said fresh-cut plant tissue; and
5 (c) dehydrating said fresh-cut plant tissue.

6

1 Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein said step of
2 dehydrating said fresh cut plant tissue comprises at least one method selected from the
3 group consisting of:

4 (a) burying dehydrating method;
5 (b) burying and sealing dehydrating method;
6 (c) hang-drying dehydrating method;
7 (d) microwaving dehydrating method;
8 (e) chemical dehydrating method; and
9 (f) freeze-drying dehydrating method.

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1 Claim 5 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising
2 a cleaning step comprising at least one step selected from the group consisting of:
3 (a) vibrating said plant tissue to remove said dehydrating material;
4 (b) air-brushing said plant tissue to remove said dehydrating material;
5 and
6 (c) brushing said plant tissue to remove said dehydrating material.

7
1 Claim 6 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, said step of
2 saturating said plant tissue with said saturation mix further comprising the steps of:

3 (a) draining said saturation mix from said saturated plant tissue; and
4 (b) drying said saturated plant tissue.

5
1 Claim 7 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, said step of
2 coating said plant tissue further comprising the steps of:

3 (a) applying a coating mix to said saturated plant tissue;
4 (b) draining said coating mix from said coated plant tissue; and
5 (c) drying said coated plant tissue.

6
1 Claim 8 (previously presented): The method of claim 2, wherein said
2 coating mix is composed of at least one mix selected from the group consisting of:

3 (a) solution composed of derivatives of natural rubber;
4 (b) natural rubber solution;
5 (c) any solution imparting a rubber-like flexibility; and
6 (d) a silicone styrene elastomer resin mix.

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1 Claim 9 (cancelled)
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1 Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 claim 19, further
2 comprising a step of adding said silicone styrene elastomer resin mix to a solvent, said
3 solvent selected from the group consisting of:

4 (a) toluene;
5 (b) xylene;
6 (c) naphtha;
7 (d) acetone; and
8 (e) various combinations of elements of (a)-(d).

9
1 Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 2, further comprising:

2 (a) applying a polishing mix to said coated plant tissue.

3
1 Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 11, said step of applying a
2 polishing mix to said coated plant tissue further comprising the steps of:

3 (a) draining said polished plant tissue; and
4 (b) drying said polished plant tissue.

5
1 Claim 13 (previously presented): The method of claim 11, wherein said
2 polishing mix is composed of at least one polishing mix selected from the group
3 consisting of:

4 (a) a silicone styrene elastomer resin mix; and
5 (b) "F-799" PLASTI-DIP®.

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1 Claim 14 (cancelled)

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1 Claim 15 (cancelled)

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1 Claim 16 (cancelled)

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1 Claim 17 (cancelled)

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1 Claim 18 (cancelled)

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1 Claim 19 (cancelled)

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1 Claim 20 (currently amended): The A method of claim 19 for preserving
2 plant tissue, said method comprising the steps of:

- 3 (a) obtaining a dehydrated plant tissue;
- 4 (b) saturating said plant tissue with a saturation mix; and
- 5 (c) said saturation mix composed of a silicone styrene elastomer resin
6 mix;
- 7 (d) wherein said silicone styrene elastomer resin mix comprises one or
8 more copolymers of dimethylsiloxane and polystyrene.

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1 Claim 21 (previously presented): A method for preserving plant tissue,
2 said method comprising the steps of:

- 3 (a) obtaining a dehydrated plant tissue;
- 4 (b) saturating said plant tissue with a saturation mix;
- 5 (c) said saturation mix being composed of a silicone styrene elastomer
6 resin mix; and
- 7 (d) said silicone styrene elastomer resin mix comprises one or more
8 copolymers of dimethylsiloxane and polystyrene.

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1 **Claim 22 (previously presented):** The method of claim 21, said step of
2 saturating said plant tissue with said saturation mix further comprising the steps of:

3 (a) draining said saturation mix from said saturated plant tissue; and
4 (b) drying said saturated plant tissue.

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1 **Claim 23 (previously presented):** The method of claim 22, further
2 comprising the step of applying a coating mix to said saturated plant tissue, said step of
3 applying a coating mix further comprising the steps of:

4 (a) applying a coating mix to said saturated plant tissue;
5 (b) draining said coating mix from said coated plant tissue; and
6 (c) drying said coated plant tissue.

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1 **Claim 24 (cancelled)**
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